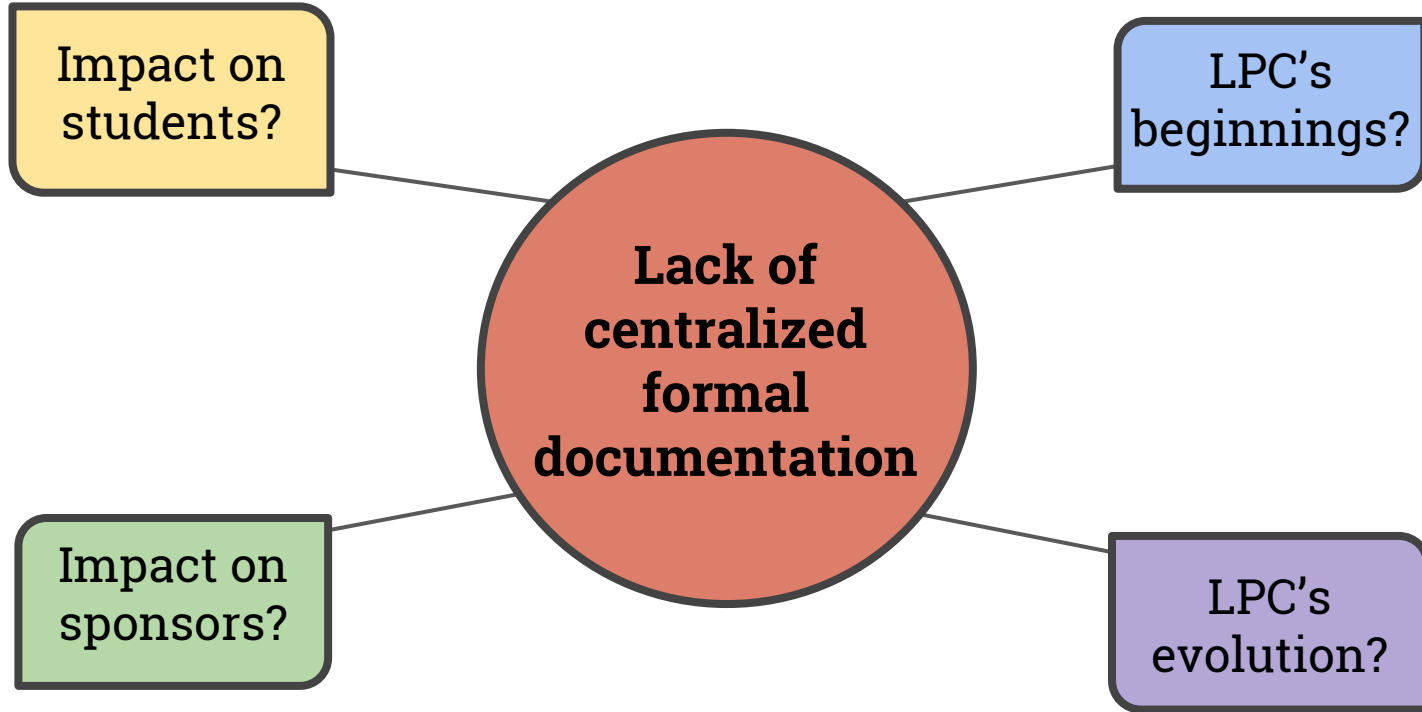


Assessing the Impacts of the London Project Center



Calum Briggs, Lauren Getz, Emily McGlame, Michael Padberg

The Problem and Resulting Uncertainties



Study Abroad and the Link to STEM

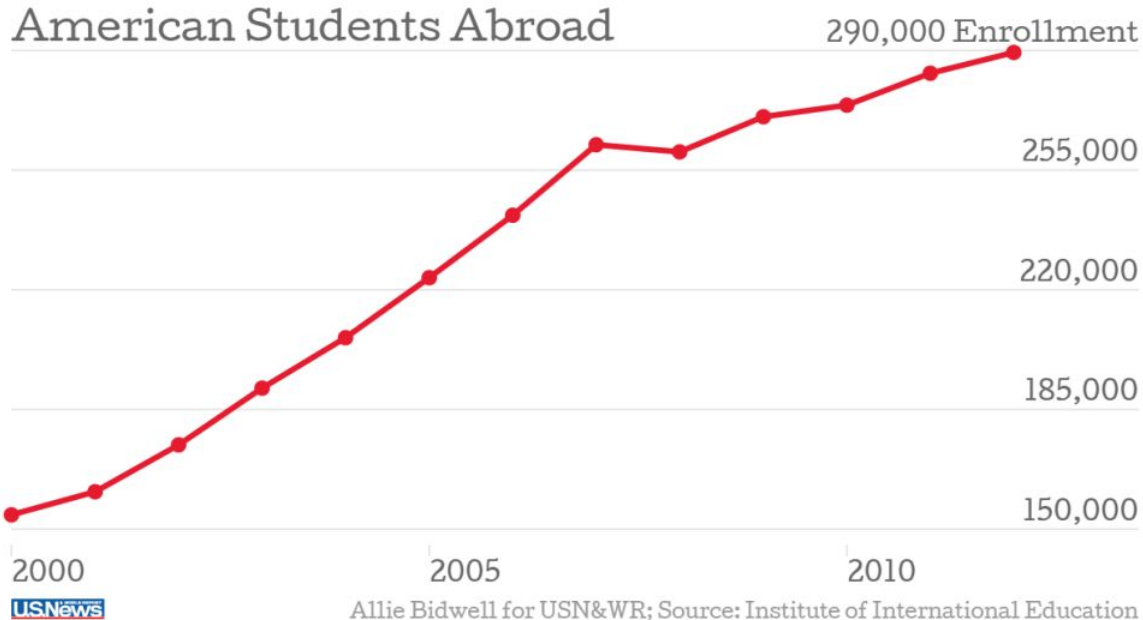


Figure 1. Graph of Increase in American Students Pursuing Study Abroad from the Institute of International Education

Study Abroad and the Link to STEM

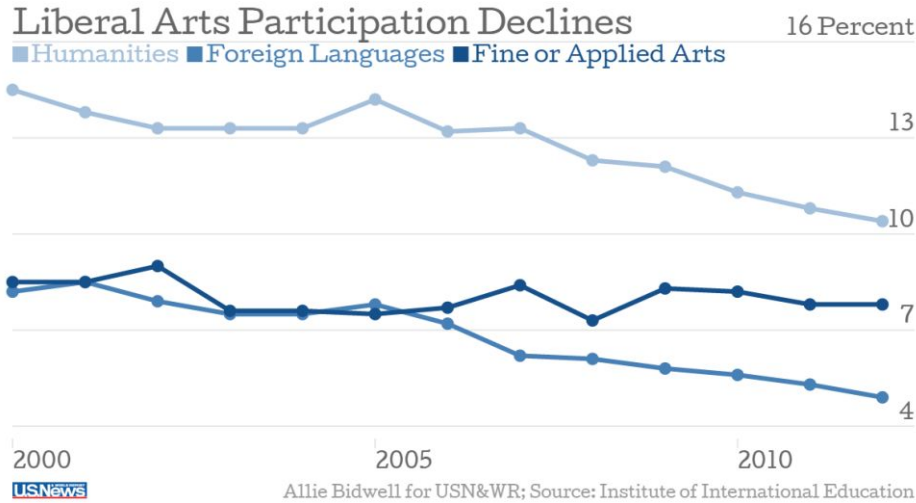


Figure 2. Graph of Decline in US Liberal Arts Students Pursuing Study Abroad from the Institute of International Education

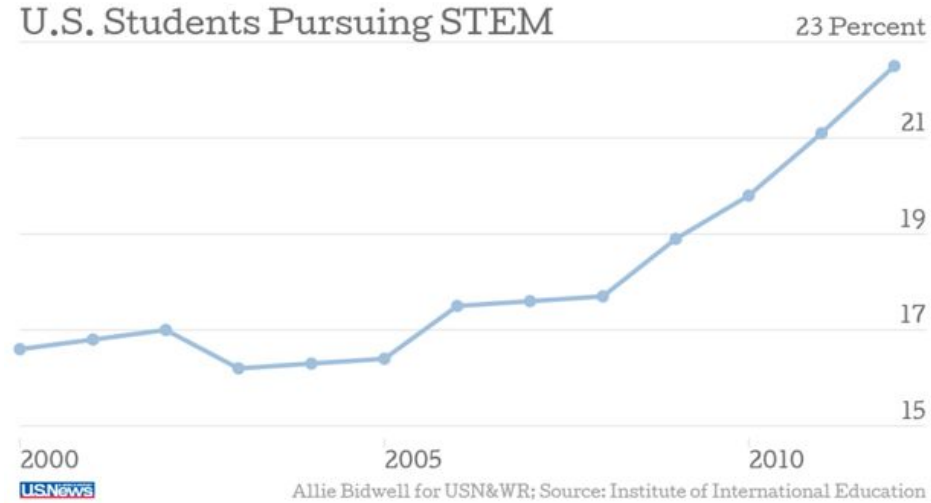


Figure 3. Graph of US STEM Students Pursuing Study Abroad from the Institute of International Education

Project Based Learning and the WPI Plan

Early 1960's:
WPI recognized that it needed a change in education methods.

1970:
WPI Plan was instituted, with the Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP) being a major component.

1987:
First international project center was formally established in London.

2016:
There are over 45 WPI project centers established worldwide.

IQP was built on the theory of project based learning

- **Student lead projects outside of an engineering environment can enhance key professional skills and learning outcomes.**

Objectives



1.

Understand the effects the LPC has had on its alumni.



2.

Understand how student projects have affected sponsoring organizations.



3.

Compile a complete history of the Project Center.

Faculty Interviews and the Database

DATABASE

First Projects

**Sponsoring
organizations**

**Number and
terms of project
offering**



**FACULTY
INTERVIEWS**

**Origins of the
Center**

**How sponsors
and projects are
found**

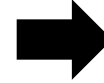
**What goes into
setting up and
running projects**

The London Project Center's Beginnings

**Implementation of
the WPI Plan
(1970)**



**Exchange
program with City
University and
work with Maria
Watkins
(1974)**



**Establishment of
the London Project
Center as the first
center abroad
(1987)**

**Connections with
the DC Patent
Office and the UK
Patent Office**

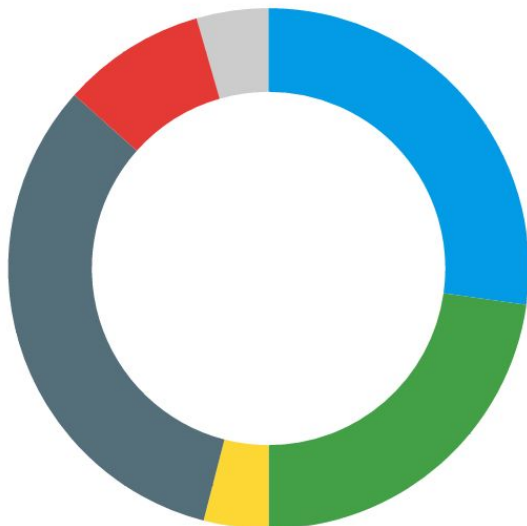


Projects Through the Years

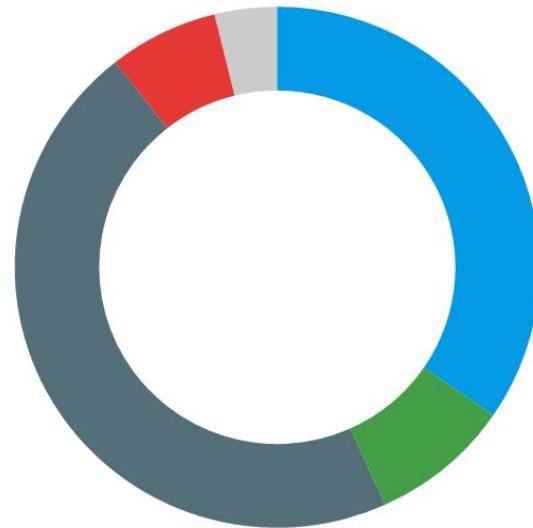
1987 - 1993



1994 - 2008



2009 - 2014



■ Museum or Gallery (e.g. Science Museum, Tate) ■ Social Service Organization (e.g. Royal National Institute for the Blind, Commonsense Development Trust)

■ Professional or Scientific Organization (e.g. Institute of Structural Engineers, Royal Geographical Society) ■ National Government Agency (e.g. Department of Environment and Climate Change)

■ Local Government Authority (e.g. borough council) ■ Private/Semi-private Corporation (e.g. Crossrail, Transport for London) ■ Other (Please specify)

Alumni Survey



395 responses out of 733 requests, 54% response rate



Creation of a survey to send to alumni of the LPC from the years 1987-2014



Gather testimonials from select alumni to gain more personal details of their experience



WPI

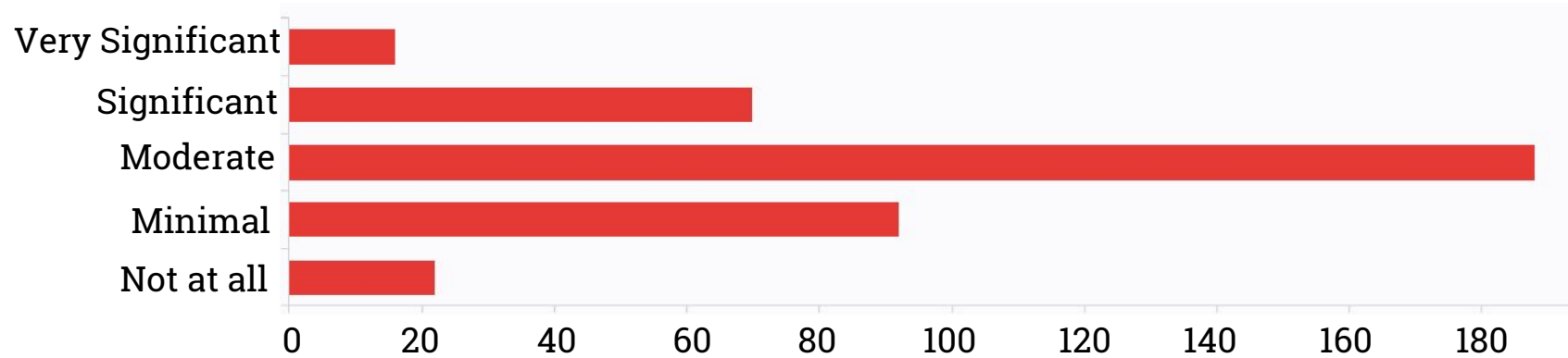
To what extent do you feel like your project had a lasting impact on the organization by which you were sponsored?

- Very significant
- Significant
- Moderate
- Minimal
- Not at all

Please comment on the reasoning behind your above answers to the fullest extent possible.

Student Perceived Impact on Sponsors

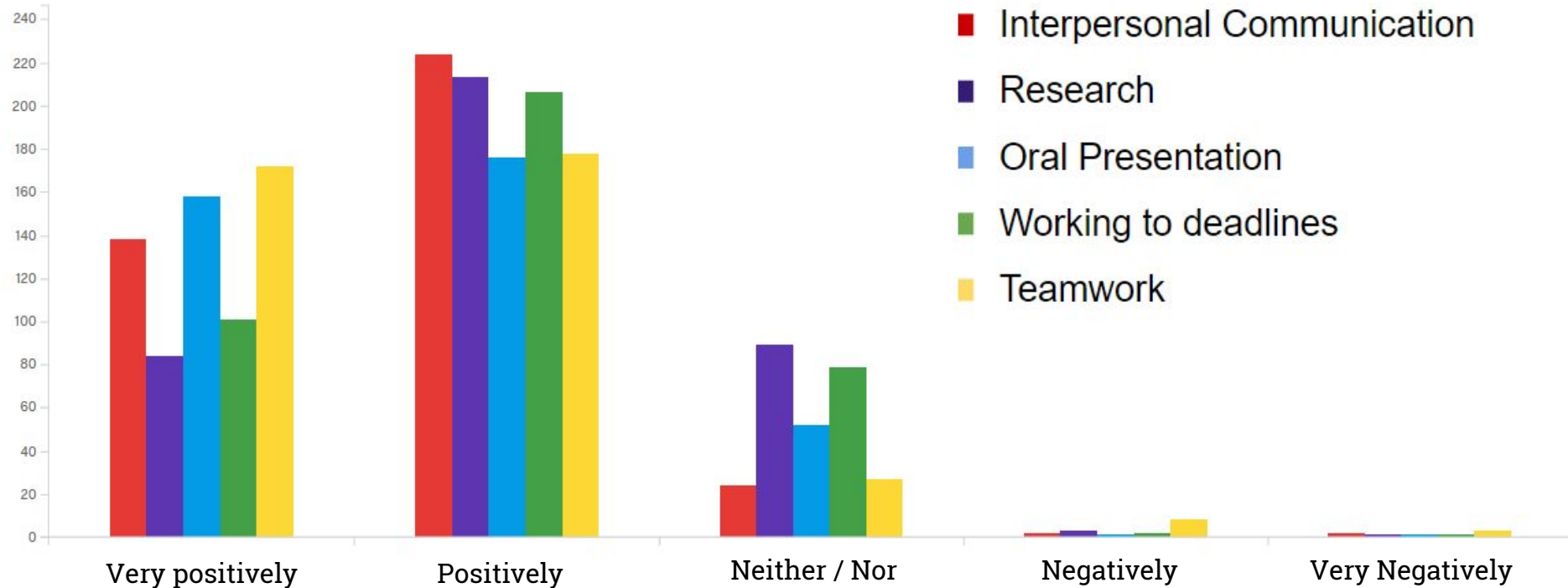
To what extent do you feel like your project had a lasting impact on the organization by which you were sponsored?



Organization Impact Scores

Museum: 1.98
Social Service Organization: 1.97
Local Government Authority: 1.81
Professional Organization: 1.73
National Government Organization: 2.06

The London Project Center's Impact on Skills



Open Response

"I can trace my *DEVELOPMENT* and *advancement in oral PRESENTATION SKILLS* to this project."

"I *wouldn't have traded that summer for ANY internship* or other school program. The *FRIENDS* I made there I still stay in touch with and the *MEMORIES* were once in a *lifetime*."

"Today's business environment is *GLOBAL*. Having *INTERNATIONAL experience* was *extremely useful* and helped my *understanding of another CULTURE*. The way we did the *research* for my project is similar to how I conduct research in *my current career*."

"The *tight DEADLINES* and the *close working environment* contributed greatly to my experience. The presentations, both in London and at WPI, as well as the project updates gave me a *better sense of public speaking*."

"It provided me with the tools to *perform RESEARCH independently, work successfully within a TEAM*, and clearly *present my findings* and perspective. It gave me *CONFIDENCE* and *CURIOSITY* to pursue further education and experiences beyond WPI."

Sponsor Interviews



The London Project Center's Impact on Sponsors

Throughout our interviews with sponsors, we received an overwhelmingly positive response.

Consistently meeting or exceeding sponsor expectations.

Infusing energy and enthusiasm into the workplace.

Bringing a fresh perspective to solving problems.

Acquaintances staff with dealing with outside contacts and interns.



Overall Conclusions

Students gain a greater understanding of other cultures, and become more comfortable traveling to new places.

Fosters student growth, making for success in professional environments.

Students bring new ideas and innovative points of view to sponsoring organizations working to solve complex problems.



Recommendations

Make the structure of ID2050 known to sponsors

Increases awareness of expectations for students

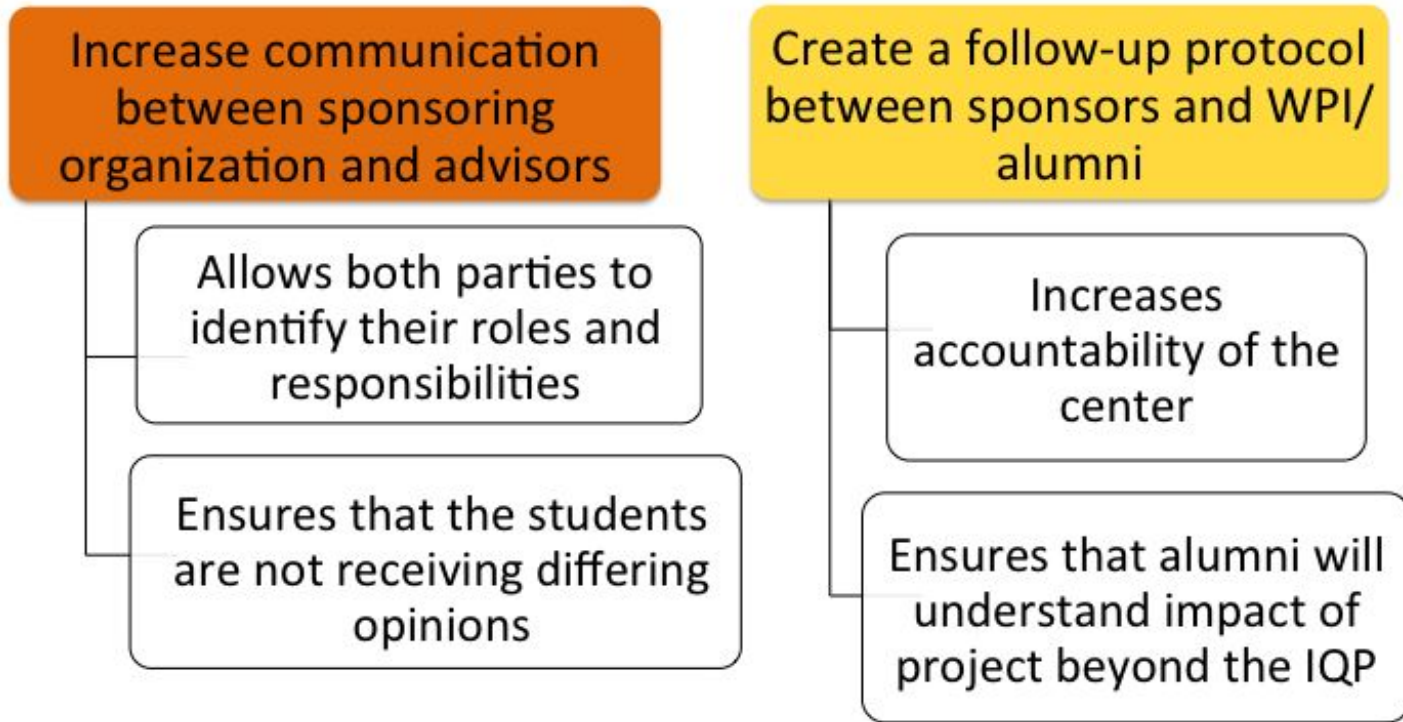
Ensures everyone is on the same page

Hold a reception for all the sponsoring organizations

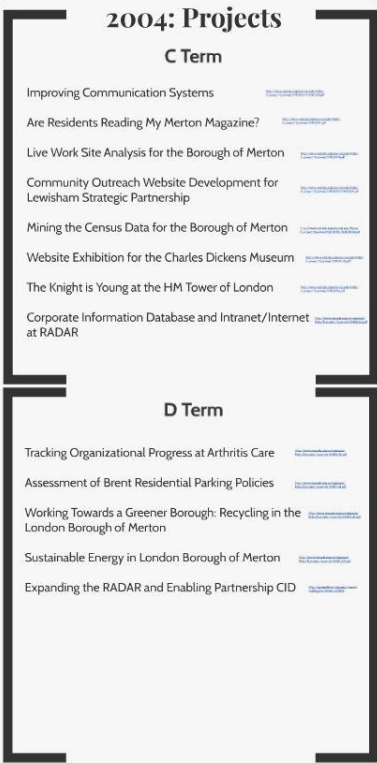
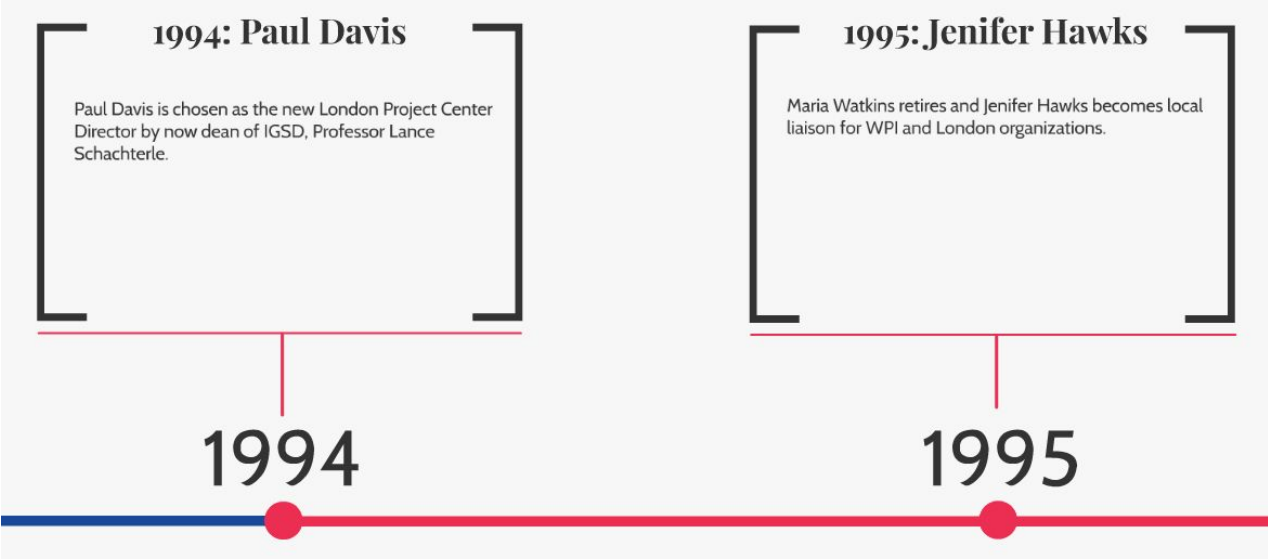
Promotes networking and communication

Ensures each sponsor will establish a realistic degree of expectations

Recommendations



Deliverables - Timeline



The WPI London Project Center Timeline



Deliverables - Updated Database

B	C	D	E	F	G
2003	D	http://www.wpi.e	Developing an Online Community for Nurses	Marie Curie Cancer Care	Charity
2003	D	http://www.wpi.e	WPI-Nuffield Curriculum Centre -- London City	The Nuffield Curriculum Centre	Other
2003	C	http://www.wpi.e	Website Reconstruction and Public Relations E	Upkeep	Charity
2004	C	http://www.wpi.e	Improving Communication Systems	Arthritis Care	Charity
2004	D	http://www.wpi.e	Tracking Organizational Progress at Arthritis Ca	Arthritis Care	Charity
2004	D	http://www.wpi.e	Assessment of Brent Residential Parking Policie	Borough of Brent	Local Authority
2004	C	http://www.wpi.e	Are Residents Reading My Merton Magazine?	Borough of Merton	Local Authority
2004	C	http://www.wpi.e	Live Work Site Analysis for the Borough of Mer	Borough of Merton	Local Authority
2004	C	http://www.wpi.e	Community Outreach Website Development fo	Lewisham Strategic Partnership	Local Authority
2004	C	http://www.wpi.e	Mining the Census Data for the Borough of Me	Borough of Merton	Local Authority
2004	D	http://www.wpi.e	Working Towards a Greener Borough: Recyclin	Borough of Merton	Local Authority
2004	D	http://www.wpi.e	Sustainable Energy in London Borough of Mert	Borough of Merton	Local Authority
2004	C	http://www.wpi.e	Website Exhibition for the Charles Dickens Mu	Charles Dickens Museum	Museum
2004	D	http://gordonlibre	Expanding the RADAR and Enabling Partnershi	Enabling Partnership	Charity
2004	C	http://www.wpi.e	The Knight is Young at the HM Tower of Lond	H.M. Tower of London	Museum
2004	C	http://www.wpi.e	Corporate Information Database and Intranet/	Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR)	Charity
2005	C	http://www.wpi.e	Data Management Tools for a Non-Profit Orga	Age Concern Camden	Charity
2005	D	http://www.wpi.e	City Knowledge and Municipal Data Infrastruct	Borough of Merton	Local Authority
2005	D	http://www.wpi.e	Distribution Route Assessment for a Combined	Borough of Merton	Local Authority
2005	C	http://www.wpi.e	Merton City Knowledge	Borough of Merton	Local Authority
2005	C	http://www.wpi.e	Merton Resources	Borough of Merton	Local Authority
2005	C	http://www.wpi.e	Pilot Resident Consultation as Part of a Combin	Borough of Merton	Local Authority
2005	C	http://www.wpi.e	Virtual Museum Tour	Centre for Accessible Environments	Charity
2005	D	http://www.wpi.e	Virtual Tour for the Charles Dickens Museum	Charles Dickens Museum	Museum
2005	C	http://www.wpi.e	Community Involvement and the Commonside	Commonside Community Development Trust	Charity
2005	C	http://www.wpi.e	Material Science Website for the Royal Armou	H.M. Tower of London	Museum
2005	D	http://www.wpi.e	Radar Communications Network: Testing, Verif	Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR)	Charity
2005	C	http://www.wpi.e	RADAR: Designing a Communication System	Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability	Charity

Deliverables - Brochure (Outside)

Quotes from Alumni

"You build (confidence) in knowing that you can travel to another country, thousands of miles away from your family and US-based support structures, and be successful and independent." - Ron Skoletsky, BS EE '90 and MS ECE '92

"In particular the London Project Center affords students with the opportunity to work collaboratively with professionals in environments which will be quite similar to what students will be in after graduation." - Jovanna Baptista, BS MAC '00

"London is an amazing city, and an important city, perhaps more than I understood when I first arrived. Don't be fooled that just because English is the primary language that it will be less of an experience. If you like history, art, culture, finance, technology... you will have unlimited opportunities to pursue these interests." - Peter Tousignant, '90



Questions?

Find more information at the London Project Center Website at:
<http://wp.wpi.edu/london/>

Or contact London Project Center
Director Dominic Golding at:
golding@wpi.edu

The WPI London Project Center



Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Deliverables - Brochure (Inside)



What is the London Project Center?

The London Project Center, first established in 1987, is the longest running international WPI project center. Over 300 student research projects have been completed, sponsored by more than 100 organizations in Greater London. The London Project Center is not a physical building in London.

Rather, it is one of many 'virtual' centers hosted through the WPI IGSD's Global Perspective Program. Nonetheless, the London Project Center arranges a variety of interesting projects, as well as quality residence for students each year.

Projects

Many different types of organizations sponsor projects through the London Project Center, in both the Spring and the Summer each year.

Types of Projects:

- Museums or Galleries (e.g. Imperial War Museum, Science Museum)
- Local Government Authorities (e.g. Borough of Hounslow, Borough of Lambeth)
- Private/Semi-private Corporations (e.g. Transport for London, Crossrail)
- Professional or Scientific Organizations (e.g. Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Institute of Electrical Engineers)
- Social Service Organizations (e.g. Commonsense Community Development Trust, Royal National Institute for the Blind)
- National Government Agencies (e.g. Department of Environment and Climate Change)
- Educational Institutions (e.g. WPI London Project Center, Imperial College)

Terms offered:

- D term (Mid March - Early May)
- E term (Early May - Late June)

Why Choose The London Project Center?

The London Project Center offers a unique set of opportunities for students wishing to complete their IQP abroad. Projects in London give WPI students the experience of learning in a professional and engaging environment. Students reside in 2-4 bedroom apartments, fully equipped with kitchens and appliances. The apartments are located in central London, walking distance from many major attractions.

The common language and culture that is similar enough, while still unique, make London a great choice for any person new to international travel. London is a central hub for those wishing to explore the rest of Europe, with fast travel to France, Belgium, Ireland and many other exciting places.



WPI

<http://wp.wpi.edu/london/>

Deliverables - Alumni Testimonials

- Life post-grad
- Why is it valuable to complete IQP abroad?
- Why would you recommend the London Project Center?
- What was your favorite aspect of your IQP experience in London?



The screenshot shows the website for the London Project Center at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The page features a dark red header with the WPI logo and navigation links. The main content area is white and displays a testimonial for Jovanna Baptista, a 2000 graduate. The testimonial includes a photo of Jovanna, her name, major, and a detailed account of her career path and how the IQP experience influenced her.

London Project Center
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Dashboard

HOME PAGE WPI PROGRAM PROJECTS FOR STUDENTS FOR SPONSORS CONTACT US

REPAIR CAFE LTM ENERGIZE WORCESTER BRITISH MUSEUM HOUNSLOW SCHOOL EMERGENCY PLANS

CROYDON BRENT

Edit

Private: Jovanna Baptista 2000



Name: Jovanna Baptista

Major and year of graduation: Actuarial Mathematics, 2000

Life post graduation: I received my MS in Biostatistics from Harvard School of Public Health and began my career as a Biostatistician at a contract research organization (CRO) in 2002. In 2006, I became the Associate Director of Biostatistics and Data Management at AMAG Pharmaceuticals. In 2008, I was the Director of Biometrics and Data Management at Altus Pharmaceuticals. I joined Shire in 2010 to support a clinical development of treatments for rare genetic diseases and am currently a Director of Biostatistics and Biostatistics Team Lead.

Why do you believe it is valuable to complete IQP abroad?

I believe it is valuable to complete IQP abroad because it teaches you how to work within a team in an unfamiliar environment with very little instruction on how to solve the technical problem presented. It allowed me to experience how my analytical training in mathematics could be applied to solving real-life problems beyond what is tested in the classroom. It is an opportunity for students to challenge themselves and build essential skills that will allow them to thrive beyond their education at WPI.

What is the most valuable takeaway from your IQP in London?

My IQP experience allowed me to understand the larger application of my technical education, which directly impacted my career path and helped me find an interesting and rewarding application of statistics in clinical development. In addition, it forced me to become comfortable with public speaking which is a skill that has allowed me to advance my career.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following people for their help throughout the course of our project.

- Our sponsor liaisons Professor Dominic Golding and Paula Quinn
- Our advisors, Professor VJ Manzo and Professor Jianyu Liang
- The WPI faculty, past and present: Dean Richard Vaz, Asc. Dean Kent Rissmiller, Professor Emeritus James Demetry, Professors Paul Davis, Lance Schachterle, John Zeugner, Constance Clark, Scott Jiusto, Ruth Smith, Patricia Stapleton
- The sponsors of projects in London, past and present: Ben Alsop, Alexandra Burch, Steve Cardis, Bridget Clifford, Hannah Clipson, Jenifer Hawks, Adrian Hewitt, Lauren Hillier, David Houston, Joyce Ip, Naomi Martin, Peter McDonald, Twm Palmer, Elizabeth Poulter
- The alumni of the London Project Center

**Thank you for attending
our presentation. We will
take questions now.**

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